

it is chiefly valuable for building purposes, being light and easily worked, but remarkably durable.

The chestnut, walnut, maple, birch, beech, ash, mulberry, sassafras, gum, dogwood, persimmon, locust, sycamore, willow, wild cherry, &c., found here make this section noted for the extensive variety of its woods and the many uses to which they are adapted in domestic economy.

The soil is generally clayey and gravelly loam, easily tilled, and remunerates the husbandman with bountiful harvests. The rivers and creeks have upon them a considerable amount of bottom land. This is sandy and clay loam, remarkably productive, and growing all kinds of grain, vegetables and grasses in great abundance. The bottom lands on the Haw and its tributaries lying within the county, put in a proper state of cultivation, would alone produce more than sufficient corn to bread the entire population of the county. Much of these bottom lands are neglected and undrained, yet they grow a number of wild grasses indigenous to the soil, which make hay scarcely less valuable than the timothy.

Lying, as Rockingham county does, with its north-west corner jutting up to the very foot of the Blue Ridge range of mountains, and extending in the centre and east to the level lands lying along the Dan and Haw, possibly no section of country covering the same amount of territory has a soil and climate so well adapted to the successful growth of so many products. Those of chief importance and profit are tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes, and a great variety of vegetables and fruits. Tobacco is the principal staple. The county grows about 5,000,000 pounds annually, producing more than any county in the State, except possibly Granville. The finest grades of this tobacco sell at from 50 to 75 cents per pound. There were a number of instances in this county last year of one person growing more than a thousand dollars' worth of tobacco, in addition to a fair yield of other crops.

Clover, orchard grass, timothy, millet, red-top, and other grasses grow well on most of the lands, and their successful cultivation has within the last few years awakened among the people an extensive interest in stock-raising.

A great variety of fruits, such as apples, peaches, pears, apricots, cherries, quinces, plums, figs, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, and a great variety of grapes grow in abundance